



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/902,060	07/09/2001	Roger Collins	05545.P001	9276

7590 09/03/2004
Thomas C. Webster
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
Seventh Floor
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026

EXAMINER

WAMSLEY, PATRICK G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2819	

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 09/902,060
Filing Date: July 09, 2001
Appellant(s): COLLINS ET AL.

MAILED
SEP 3 2004
GROUP 2800

Mark L. Watson
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 07/19/2004.

(1) *Real Party in Interest*

A statement identifying the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

(2) *Related Appeals and Interferences*

Appellant declared that there are no related appeals and interferences related to the present appeal that will directly affect, be directly affected by, or have a bearing on the decision in the pending appeal.

(3) *Status of Claims*

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4) *Status of Amendments After Final*

No amendment after final has been filed.

(5) *Summary of Invention*

The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

(6) *Issues*

The appellant's statement of the issues in the brief is correct.

(7) *Grouping of Claims*

Appellant declared that claims stand or fall together.

(8) *Claims Appealed*

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(9) *Prior Art of Record*

(10) Grounds of Rejection

The following grounds of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1, 3, 11, 13, 21, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by EP 806,858 to Szlam et al, hereafter Szlam. Claims 4-9, 14-19, and 25-30 were rejected as unpatentable over the Admitted Prior Art, hereafter APA, in view of Szlam. These rejections were set forth in a prior Office Action, mailed on 02/18/2004.

(11) Response to Arguments

Appellant argues that there is no disclosure in Szlam of identifying a block of data within an electronic mail message. In response, the Szlam patent is applicable to "databases" of information [column 11, lines 14-16]. Electronic mail messages, hereafter e-mails, are one example of information found in such databases [column 11, line 20]. Pointers are used to specify the location of information [column 14, lines 19-22], corresponding to the recited blocks of data. Szlam's teachings are applicable to any sort of information which can be accessed and transmitted by any form of electronic means [column 14, lines 28-30], such as e-mails.

Appellant argues that Szlam does not identify a previous electronic mail message which contains a block of data found in a new electronic mail message. In response, Szlam uses a pointer (reference element) to locate all data associated with an initial message, a Sales Order transaction [column 28, lines 18-25]. As defined by Szlam, such information could be transmitted and received in a series of e-mails. Moreover, the use of a subsequent e-mail to refer back to an initial e-mail is notoriously well known in the art of electronic messaging.

Art Unit: 2819

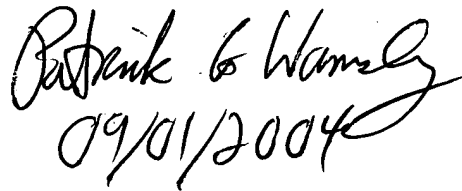
For example, U.S. Patent 6,496,841 to Tognazzini discloses a technique for handling quoted material in an electronic environment. A quote bar permits connection to a network address from which a quote may have originated. Thus, a new e-mail refers back to a block of data, a quote, in a previous e-mail.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

Primary Examiner Patrick Wamsley



September 1, 2004

Conferees

**PATRICK WAMSLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Thomas C. Webster
BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP
Seventh Floor
12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026